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# SIR WILLIAM COLLINS, SURGEON AND STATESMAN

by

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*Chairman of the Chadwick Trustees, 1912-1946.*

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William Job Collins, one of the learned, able and gifted men who have adorned the profession of medicine, was born on 9th May, 1859, at 1, Albert Terrace, Regent's Park, London.

#### ANCESTRY AND PARENTAGE

##### *COLLINS*

He was the son of William Job ~~Williams~~<sup>h</sup> *Williams*, M.D., Aberdeen (1818-1884) and Mary Anne Francisca Treacher, who belonged to the Huguenot family of Garnault. Sir William was proud of this ancestry and served as President of the Huguenot Society in London. In his biography of his father, printed for private circulation, he recorded a number of interesting particulars about the Collins family. The name, itself, is believed to be a corruption of Nicholas. Distant members of it were the ill-fated poet, William Collins (1721-1759), William Collins, R.A., and his two sons, Wilkie Collins, the novelist and Charles Allston Collins, who designed the title-page for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and married Kate, the younger daughter of Charles Dickens. Sir William himself traced his descent directly from a Warwickshire branch which included Francis Collins the lawyer of Warwick, who drafted and was one of the witnesses to Shakespeare's Will and received a legacy under it. The clause in the will is, "I give and bequeath to Frauncis Collins, of the borough of Warwick, in the County of Warwick, Gent., thirteen pounds, six shillings and eightpence, to be paid within one year after my decease."

Other direct ancestors were Job Collins (1711-1779), a Warwick architect of considerable repute, and his son, Job Collins, the second, architect and mason (1745-1800).

Sir William's grandfather, Job the third (1791-1849), settled in Oxford and adopted the calling of veterinarian and farrier. His son, William Job, Sir William's father, being endowed with a good voice, was educated in the Choir School of New College. He assisted his father with the horses, early learnt to ride and often

getting a mount with the Heythrop hounds developed a lasting love for hunting.

At the age of 18, with only a few shillings in his pocket, he set off for London with a friend, Thomas Honour, to seek his fortune. One is reminded inevitably of the similar quest undertaken by Samuel Johnson and David Garrick in 1737. William Job obtained a situation with Mr. Yarde of 28, Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn. In eighteen months he learned, as he recorded, "not only to groom a horse, but the art of healing the sick, together with every other part of the profession, embracing Chemistry, Geology, Pharmacy, Anatomy and all minor operations of surgery such as bleeding, cupping, dressing and extracting teeth." He also read French, Latin and Greek. He then became apprenticed to Mr. Francis Fowke, L.A.C., M.R.C.S., of 6, Berkeley Square, who had an extensive and aristocratic general practice. He left Mr. Fowke in 1841 and took the licence of the Pharmaceutical Society after attending the lectures of Dr. A. T. Thomson on botany and G. Fownes on Chemistry. In the latter part of the year he became assistant to a chemist, Mr. Richard Mills, at 123, High Street, Camden Town. In 1842 he opened a business of his own at 135, High Street, Camden Town, styling himself "operative and dispensing chemist. Cupping, Bleeding, Teeth Extracted." This departure was followed by success, and like his friend, Sir William Jenner, who then kept an open chemist's shop in Albany Street, Collins at 24 years of age, decided to become a regularly qualified medical practitioner. He entered himself at University College Hospital, then in its first youth, with Liston, Samuel Cooper, Sharpey, Elliotson, Quain and Todd Thomson on its staff. When acting as assistant to Robert Liston, Collins accompanied that brilliant surgeon to operations, and with him was summoned to the last duel fought in England. This was on July 1st, 1843, at the Brecknock, Camden Road, when Colonel Fawcett was mortally wounded by Lieutenant Monro. Collins was also present on December 22nd, 1846,

when the first operation under ether was performed by Liston at University College Hospital.

In 1846 W. J. Collins qualified as M.R.C.S., being then 28 years of age and began to practise at No. 33, Park Street, Camden Town. He soon had a good practice, his patients including such varied celebrities as Lady Byron, the widow of the poet, who lived in St. George's Terrace, and Tom Sayers, the prize-fighter of Somers Town. Dr. Collins was alleged to have been the author of the article in *The Times* which described Tom's famous fight with the American Heenan, "the Benicia Boy." In 1852 he married Miss Treacher and removed first to 46, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park and later to Albert Terrace. They had four children, two daughters and two sons, William Job, the subject of this lecture and Edward Treacher. In these lines describing her family, written in 1863, Mrs. Collins displays her maternal affection for her elder son :

" My darling boy ! my own sweet Will,  
What can I say enough of him,  
That when he's grown a man, he still  
May heed as now my every whim."

Dr. Collins the elder was a remarkable man who won his way to medical repute and affluence by sheer grit, ability and determination.\* He had two hobbies, painting and hunting. He painted in oils and always mixed his own colours. His first and only picture to be sent to the Academy and hung on the line was " The Artist's Reverie " depicting the birth of Venus from the foam of the sea. He also exhibited at the Grosvenor Gallery and at the International Exhibition in 1881. This pursuit brought him many artist friends, among whom he numbered Ruskin and Millais. In those leisured Victorian days, he made time to hunt regularly as soon as he could afford to keep horses, and professional duty was seldom allowed to prevent

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\*In 1854 he took the M.D. degree at King's College, Aberdeen. He had taken the L.M. of London in the previous year, and in 1859 he became L.R.C.P. of Edinburgh.

two days a week with the Queen's buckhounds during the season. He was excellent as a host at a dinner-table, full of good stories and happy repartee, while after dinner he was ever ready with a recitation or song of his own composition. He took an active part in local public affairs, serving for some years on the St. Pancras Vestry and as one of the Commissioners for the erection of baths and wash-houses. In 1867 he was elected a Guardian of the Poor for his ward in St. Pancras. He relied on sanitary reform as the chief means for controlling smallpox and other zymotic diseases and strongly opposed the compulsory enforcement of vaccination, publishing in 1868 an essay of some 61 pages entitled "Have you been vaccinated and what protection is it against the Smallpox?" and giving evidence as to the bad effects of vaccination before the Government's Select Committee in 1871. Sir William in his opposition to vaccination was greatly influenced by his father's experience and teaching.

## EARLY DAYS

Dr. Collins sent both his sons to University College School, where they received an excellent education. From there William went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1876 where he gained the Jeaffreson Entrance Exhibition. In his memoir of his father he speaks of their happy family life and especially of their annual summer holidays. "Kingsbury, St. Leonards, Bognor, Worthing, Brighton, Eastbourne, Ilfracombe, North Wales, Bournemouth were successively visited and became thus endeared to memory, while the week-ends when our Father joined us are among the happiest recollections I can call up." Sometimes their annual expedition took the form of a driving tour in the waggonette, Dr. Collins "handling the ribbands," Mrs. Collins beside him and the four children seated at the back. In 1870 they drove through Windsor, Henley and Oxford to Warwick visiting the scenes of Dr. Collins's early years, and in

1875 they went in similar fashion through Winchester, Salisbury and the New Forest to Bournemouth. In 1878 Dr. Collins with his two sons and a friend, J. A. Ingpen, rowed down the Thames from Oxford to London in glorious weather; "with my father in his best of spirits the trip was a very happy one." In 1879, William, then a senior medical student, accompanied his father to Ireland to a meeting of the British Medical Association at Cork. They travelled from Dublin to Cork with the famous Dr. Charcot of the Salpêtrière and Dr. Sigerson, who translated into English Charcot's earlier works on diseases of the nervous system. Dr. Collins, like Tennyson and Gladstone, had a very large head, and he could not resist one of his favourite tricks. He measured Charcot's cranium by putting his hat on the French savant's head, which, to the dismay of the neurologist and his friend, enveloped him to the shoulders. This meeting of the British Medical Association was notable for Savory's oration directed against Listerism and antiseptic surgery. This was the last public expression by an eminent surgeon of opposition to the method of modern surgery, which soon afterwards became universally adopted.

Father and son were rather bored by the medical atmosphere and escaped to St. Ann's Hydro at Blarney, where they duly visited the Blarney stone. In the following year, 1880, Mrs. Collins died after a long illness. By the middle of 1881 her two daughters were both married, and the Albert Terrace home contained only the doctor and his two sons. Sir William wrote of the years from 1881 to 1884: "We lived together like three brothers; he devoted to us in all affection and pride, and we doing what little we could to make up for the losses the old household had sustained. As strength and health were restored, visits to Up Park were resumed with Edward and myself; and occasional shoots were undertaken, or a cricket-match with a village gathering at which my father did the honours, helped to restore his spirits and renew something of his youth."

## MEDICAL EDUCATION

At St. Bartholomew's Hospital, William was gratifying his father's heart by academic success. Concurrently with part of his medical course he passed also the examinations for the B.Sc. of London University, graduating second in honours in physiology in 1880. In the same year he qualified as M.R.C.S.Eng. In 1881 he took the M.B. and B.S.Lond. In the M.B. examination he secured the University scholarship, the gold medal in obstetric medicine and first class honours in forensic medicine. In 1881 he obtained the M.D.Lond.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital medical staff maintained its high traditions in Collins' student days. Sir James Paget had ceased in 1871 to be an active member of the staff, but the memory of his teaching persisted.

In 1946 Sir William wrote his recollections of "St. Bartholomew's Hospital Seventy Years Ago." He begins by saying that he enjoyed Sir James Paget's friendship, having served with him on the Senate of London University when he was Vice-Chancellor, and also on the Royal Commission on Vaccination. After Paget had retired to Park Square he allowed Collins to seek his aid in consultation and he last met him when he was staying near Penmaenmawr, North Wales, with his daughter. Paget spoke of the gloom of the hospital wards in his early days, the school curriculum then only eighteen months leading up to one examination at the Hall or the College. Sir William heard Paget speak at the International Medical Congress in London in 1881. At the Royal Commission lunches, or at its activities, his words were always apt and the stories he told were as pointed as they were chaste, while his lustrous eyes riveted attention.

In Sir William's hospital days, Paget's successor as senior surgeon was Luther Holden, cultured, handsome and debonair with chiselled features and a spare frame, a great anatomist and a sportsman too,

devoted to Bart's but disinclined to private practice. Next in order was Savory, later Sir William Savory, F.R.S., and the masterful President of the College of Surgeons. His lectures were oratorical, without effort, and without a note. He was rather more respected than beloved and the saying was :

“ Great Savory of Bartholomew's by the nine gods he swore ;

Of five and twenty candidates he would pluck twenty-four.”

As already mentioned, Savory opposed Lister's teaching, and Collins remembered Lister visiting the hospital one Sunday and declining an invitation to enter Savory's wards. Mr. Callinder came next in the surgical hierarchy, and then Sir Thomas Smith, always jaunty and jovial, a popular lecturer on anatomy and a bold and skilful surgeon. “ The striking contrast of the surgeons in those days with the present ritual was that they operated in old frock coats, kept in a cupboard under the stairs in the operating theatre ; these were often stiff with the blood of previous operations. On Thursdays consultations were held in the operating theatre on selected cases from the wards, when each surgeon in turn delivered himself in characteristic, and sometimes caustic, diagnosis of the patient under review.”

The Senior Physician was Dr. Patrick Black, one quite of the old school and “ a tolerant sceptic.” The other physicians were Dr. James Andrew, orthodox, a good clinician but a dull lecturer ; Dr. Southey, related to the poet ; Sir William Church, later President of the College of Physicians, tall and with an imposing beard ; Dr. Samuel Gee, imported from University College, deliberate and oracular in diagnosis, always solemn and sedate. Special departments had only just made their appearance, that of ophthalmology being under the distinguished control of the handsome Henry Power and the highly esteemed Bowater Vernon, afflicted with a chronic blepharospasm. Dr. James Matthews Duncan, formerly the assistant of Sir James Young Simpson in

Edinburgh, had come from Scotland to redeem the gynaecological department "and his Aberdonian accent intrigued the large and admiring audiences which he addressed."

Sir William recalled many dogmatic addresses and lively debates of the Abernethian Society of which as President for two years he had the happiest recollection. He gave in the course of his life addresses to the Society on such varied subjects as "Physiognomy and Phrenology—what are they worth?", on the "Title of Doctor," on "The Pathology of Cataract and of Insanity," on "Vaccination and its Compulsory Enforcement," on "Public Health and Public Office," on "Medical Work at the L.C.C.," on "Specificity and Evolution in Disease," on "Rationalism and Freethought in Medicine," on "Physic and Metaphysic," etc.

In 1881 Collins was resident Midwifery-assistant to Dr. Matthews Duncan. Collins early displayed his interest in ophthalmology, that branch of surgery in which he eventually specialised, for he was also ophthalmic house surgeon to Power and Vernon in the Eye Department in that year. During William's year of residence at "Bart's," his brother Edward, as he says, "devoted himself ungrudgingly and affectionately to the care of our father's health."

The two brothers, William and Edward, were lifelong friends. Edward qualified F.R.C.S., from Middlesex Hospital, and also specialised in ophthalmology. He was Ophthalmic Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital and Surgeon to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, and had a considerable private practice. In 1894 he visited Persia and received the Order of the Lion and the Sun (3rd Class) for his professional services to the Shah. He died in 1932.

During the latter part of 1883 Dr. Collins (Sir William's father) received unremitting attention from Sir William Jenner and Dr. Palfrey for renal and vesical troubles, complicated by attacks of bronchitis and asthma. His health gradually deteriorated and he died on May 10th, 1884.

## PROFESSIONAL WORK AND MARRIAGE

William, as has been shown, was a devoted son and was deeply affected by his father's death. He found consolation in hard work. From 1883 to 1885 he was occupied in post-graduate study, chiefly in surgery. In 1884 he became demonstrator in anatomy at his hospital; in the same year, when only twenty-three, he took the F.R.C.S.Eng.; and in the following year the M.S.Lond.

Sir William's versatility was shown in 1887 by his taking the Public Health Diploma of his University, the Certificate in Sanitary Science, as it was then called. This branch of Medicine subsequently became a special subject for the M.D. degree. Sir William, as he told me, became interested in the subject, read hard for it, and did so well in the examination that he was awarded the gold medal. This is a rare distinction and has only been awarded subsequently for the M.D. in Hygiene on two or three occasions. The study of public health became an abiding interest with Sir William and added to his wide outlook on the problems of medicine and surgery.

Sir William came to the study of medicine with a scientific and inquiring mind, and from the outset of his medical career questioned the current beliefs of medical doctrine. As early as 1881 he was asking in the columns of the *Lancet* how far the commonly accepted notions of the specificity of disease should be modified by the doctrine of evolution; "The common ancestry of specific diseases, once recognised, would do much to remove the hard and fast line so often drawn between disease and disease in textbooks, and dissertations, but of which nature knows nothing."

Collins's academic career, his surgical qualifications and the demonstratorship in anatomy presaged a brilliant surgical career as a member of the staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It was probably a suspicion of heterodoxy, his opposition to current teaching and belief, his dislike to take anything for granted, and his frank expression of his opinions that

prevented his election to the surgical staff. A contemporary at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, though a few years junior to Collins at the Hospital, knew him well in his younger days. He tells me that Collins's outspoken views on vaccination were the main cause of his being passed over for election to the honorary staff. Sir William Savory opposed his appointment on these grounds, and since Savory was all powerful this hostility prevailed. My informant also considers that Collins, while possessing a profound knowledge of theoretical surgery, was then less versed in operative technique than some of his contemporaries.

At all events, Collins decided to specialise chiefly in ophthalmology after 1885. He became Surgeon and later Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Eye Hospital and the Western Ophthalmic Hospital; and was also Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hampstead and North-Western Hospital, and to the National Temperance Hospital, where he continued to do a certain amount of general surgery. At the latter hospital he had for a short time Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson as his colleague. The old physician and the young surgeon became friends. They resembled one another in their intellectual gifts, their versatility, their zeal for public health and social improvement and in their powers of literary exposition. In later years Sir William gave the First Memorial Lecture on Richardson to the Model Abattoir Society and paid him an eloquent and merited tribute.

In 1898 William Collins married Jean, the daughter of John Wilson, M.P. for Govan.

She was a woman of conspicuous charm and high abilities. In the true spirit of Florence Nightingale, in spite of her family's opposition, she adopted the nursing profession, and it was as a Sister in the wards of the Temperance Hospital that William Collins met her. It was a happy marriage, and for many years Lady Collins co-operated fully in her husband's many interests. She was a kind and gracious hostess and they entertained extensively both in London and at their country house at Eastbourne, until Lady

Collins's long and crippling illness hampered all their activities for many years.

Miss Puxley tells me that on one occasion when she urged Sir William to return to politics, it was perfectly clear that only consideration for his wife deterred him. He said : " Can you see her in the hurly-burly of an election? And she would never stand aside." Moreover, in her last years he tended her day and night with affectionate solicitude, and when she died, though he kept his unbending attitude to the world, he was a broken man. No account therefore of Sir William's life would be complete without emphasising the importance to him of this union.

Collins's multifarious interests in other fields of work prevented his taking a leading position in ophthalmology. He wrote comparatively little upon the subject. He published a monograph on cataract in 1897, and during the war of 1914-18 he described several interesting cases of gunshot wounds in the eye. As Doyne medallist and lecturer in 1918 he spoke on " Ophthalmology and the War." He operated on the eye, especially for cataract, and his patients invariably appreciated his skill and attention, but he never troubled to make a large private practice, and his professional services were often rendered to friends and the impoverished without a fee.

#### STOPFORD BROOKE AND H. G. WELLS

Many of Collins's patients became his friends. Among these he numbered Stopford Brooke, that great authority on English literature. Stopford Brooke was a patient and friend of mine in his latter years, and he often spoke to me of Sir William's abilities as a statesman and social reformer, likening him in these qualities to another close friend of Brooke, Lord Bryce, and speculating whether if Collins had been given the same opportunities he might not have equalled or even surpassed Bryce's distinction in letters and diplomacy. Our common friendship for Stopford Brooke was a great link between Sir William and myself, and we rarely met

without recalling memories of Brooke and his family. The friendship between the two men of high ideals is revealed in one of Brooke's last letters to Collins :\*

London, January 4th, 1915.

" . . . . Thank you for your letter. I do not think there is anything really the matter with my eyes. They seem quite as useful as they have been during the last few years. They do not pick up things as quickly as they did. That's old age I imagine. I have observed the same thing with regard to the other senses—hearing, taste and smelling.

" I was glad to read your trampling on Haldane's notion of Germanising University teaching. I know it undermines the teaching of literature. Also I was very much interested in your pamphlet on the General Baptists there in Holland. I knew nothing about them or their work. It is sixty years since I read Mosheim and forgetfulness is perhaps excusable. But you have given life to the matter."

Those familiar with Goethe's autobiography and his *Life* by G. H. Lewes, will remember that the German poet, when a student at Leipsic in 1768 was seized with violent haemorrhage from the lungs and was saved by prompt medical assistance. Collins when a young man aided H. G. Wells under similar circumstances. In 1887 the future novelist was staying at Miss Fetherstonhaugh's house, Up Park, near Midhurst, where Wells' mother was housekeeper. Here he had a profuse haemorrhage and young Dr. Collins, a fellow-guest, was summoned. He put Wells on his back, clapped ice-bags on his chest and the flow was stopped. Wells told me that "this brilliant young heretic of the medical world" gave him life and hope; he did not regard the case as one of tuberculosis, he considered that with care and rest in a few years Wells might make a complete recovery, but he also spoke of the possibility of diabetes. On

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\*Dr. L. P. Jacks, the son-in-law and biographer of Stopford Brooke, has kindly given me permission to publish this letter (see *Life and Letters of Stopford Brooke*, Vol. II, pp. 677-78. John Murray, 1917).

both grounds events justified Collins. Wells had a few relapses, but his disease became arrested. He did develop diabetes. After recovery, Wells besought Collins's good offices to bring him into touch with writers like the Huxleys, who might want a "literary fag." Collins was unable to do this, but replied kindly, and for some years corresponded with and maintained interest in Wells. But by 1894 Wells was able to assure him that he had "reserves" for a year or two.

In 1936 I met H. G. Wells at the Royal Society Conversazione. He remembered with gratitude Sir William's timely aid, and asked me to approach him on the subject of a little reunion dinner at which the surviving guests of that country house party might meet. I made no promise, but I mentioned our conversation to Sir William a few days afterwards. Sir William, although he spoke with Wells occasionally at the Reform Club, had no wish for a prolonged meeting with his patient of former days. In 1909 H. G. Wells had sent him his novel, *Ann Veronica*, with a grateful inscription, and its perusal had shocked the soul of the man of Huguenot descent. The book went into the fire, and the author was condemned with it in Sir William's eyes. Boswell succeeded in arranging a meeting between two such incompatibles as Dr. Johnson and John Wilkes. I failed to bring Sir William to dine with H. G. Wells, and if I had succeeded I should have trembled for the result. H. G. Wells was a kindly man and had good qualities; Sir William in prolonging the life of this eminent novelist and social reformer did a service to English literature.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Hardly had Sir William secured his footing on ophthalmology before his administrative talents and capacity for public affairs began to be recognised. He was a senator of his University within eight years of the termination of his student career and held this office from 1893-1927. In that position he was of great service to London University education, and he

strenuously opposed Haldane's scheme for reconstruction, "the Germanisation of the University," as he termed it. He twice held office as Vice-Chancellor in 1907-9 and 1911-12. He continually advocated a permanent home for the University, and in 1926 was a member of a deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject. He lived to see this aspiration fulfilled, but on the Bloomsbury site which he did not favour. He preferred a site at Kensington.

In an article published in *The Contemporary Review*, September, 1935, entitled "The University of London Fifty Years Ago," Sir William recalled memories of the men with whom he had been associated in the University work. The Chancellors, Earl Granville, the Earl of Derby, Lord Herschell and the Earl of Rosebery; and Sir James Paget, Lord Acton, Arthur Balfour, Professor Huxley and Sir John Lubbock (Lord Avebury). He mentions that as Vice-Chancellor he secured revision of the Standing Orders in order to facilitate business. The Chancellor, Lord Rosebery, rarely attended, and on three Presentation days Sir William had to give the degrees and to address the assembly. Sir William, I believe, had the distinction of being the only Fellow of the University.

When London University began to give honorary degrees, one of the first they desired to honour was Sir William Collins. But, opposed to the principle of such degrees, "the palm without the dust," as he expressed it, he declined, though his prolonged and able service for the University fully merited the distinction.

### THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

William Collins's work on the London County Council greatly added to his reputation as a man of affairs. He was elected Progressive member for West St. Pancras in 1892 and re-elected in 1895, 1898, 1901 and 1904. The Progressives advocated municipal police, municipal water-supply, electricity, transport and markets, taxation of land values, equalisation of rates, betterment, shorter hours and

fair wages, and equality of the sexes. They also desired a united London, believing that one great authority was best for the metropolis and strove to unite the City of London with the County. They were successful in their objectives of better housing, more parks and the efficient maintenance of services inherited from the Metropolitan Board of Works, but in the other features of their programme which involved the upheaval of vested interests and established values, they met with strenuous opposition from the Moderate party on the Council. In these struggles for reform, Collins took a conspicuous part. For two years he was Chairman of the Public Control Committee, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Council in 1896-97 and Chairman in 1897-98, being universally regarded as "one of the best of Chairmen." None of his predecessors had such a difficult position to fill. The Progressive and Moderate Members at that time were equally divided, but the Aldermen gave the Progressives a majority. Collins in the Chair displayed firmness, fairness and business capacity, preserving excellent order, even when party feeling was at its highest. For six years he never missed a meeting of the Council, and in that time attended more than six hundred Committee meetings. On many public occasions he was the official spokesman of the Council. He received the Prince of Wales when he opened the Blackwall Tunnel, and wrote and read at Windsor Castle the address of the London County Council to Queen Victoria on the occasion of her diamond Jubilee. His Annual Report for his term of office in the Chair was a comprehensive record of steady and valuable, if inconspicuous work. He was the first to advocate a green belt for London, saying in this Report : " One would wish that the natural boundary of our County should be a belt of green spaces, providing ample ramparts of fresh air."

In 1904 the London Education Act transferred responsibility for Elementary and Secondary education from the London School Board to the County Council. Sir William was Chairman of the Education

Committee from 1904-1906; and laid the foundation of that successful service which has made London education a pattern and example to other Local Education Authorities.

After 1906, Parliamentary duties claimed Sir William's attention, but he always maintained an interest in the work of the London County Council, which he had served so well and faithfully. He was a Deputy Lieutenant and Vice-Lieutenant for the County of London and a Justice of the Peace. In 1922 he delivered an able address to the members of the Rotary Club of London on *London Government* in which he set forth his views and beliefs on the subject. In this address he said that the present state of London government still left much to be desired, and again advocated union of the City with the County to form one municipal authority. On the functions of a municipality he expressed his views as follows:

“While on the one hand the municipality must not encroach on the rights and duties of the State, so also must it not encroach upon the rights and duties of its citizens—in the sphere of private enterprise. By all means let *communal* necessities like drainage, water-supply, fire-prevention, means of transit, markets and ports be the concern of the community, through the municipality, but in matters which are not of communal necessity let the local authority be chary of intervention or interference. We neither require nor will tolerate either a State or a municipal bureaucracy.”

Sir William pondered much on the future of British hospitals. As early as 1912 he read a paper on *Hospitals and the State* at the Annual Conference of the British Hospitals Association, Birmingham. In 1912 he wrote on *The Future of the Hospitals*; and in July, 1943, contributed an article to *The Contemporary Review* on *The Future of Voluntary Hospitals*. In all these papers he was in favour of the continuation of the voluntary system, but he realised that the funds of philanthropy were drying up and that voluntary hospitals could only continue with support from

public funds. Collins always took a lively interest in the progressive expansion of the London County Council Hospitals. When engaged in the Council's asylum work, as it was then called, he was struck with the necessity for more scientific study of the pathology of insanity, and in 1895 set on foot an inquiry into this matter. The outcome of the inquiry was the establishment of the Claybury Laboratory to which the eminent neuro-pathologist, Sir Frederick Mott, was appointed as Superintendent. Here Mott did outstanding work in an almost new field, and the series of *Archives of Neurology* testifies to the impulse thus given in this country to the intensive study of mental disease and its varied causation. Collins is deserving of full credit for encouraging the study of neuro-pathology in the mental hospitals of the London County Council.

#### THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Sir William Collins was a Liberal in politics, and was early chosen by his party organisation as a candidate for Parliament. In 1895 he unsuccessfully contested West St. Pancras. In 1900 he sought the suffrages of the University of London. This was the time of "the Khaki election" when a wave of excitement in favour of fighting the South African War to a finish swept through the country. The Conservatives returned to power and Sir William was among the defeated candidates. His successful opponent was Sir Michael Foster, the physiologist, and in congratulating him Collins also congratulated the Government Whips as having caught a very remarkable biological specimen which he thought they would have some difficulty in classifying. By the general election of 1906 there was a great Liberal revival and Sir William became Member for West St. Pancras. He entered the House of Commons under the highest auspices. Reflecting on his high reputation in local government, his wide outlook on public health and social questions with which the new government was so closely to be concerned, and his statesmanlike

gifts and ability for handling men and affairs, many prophesied for him a great career in politics. Some, indeed, regarded him as a possible future Prime Minister. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman formed his famous Ministry of "all the talents" and even at the outset the question arose of including Sir William in it. It was decided, however, that he might wait and accustom himself in the meantime to parliamentary procedure. At a later date, as Sir William told me himself, Campbell-Bannerman offered him the Under-Secretaryship of the Local Government Board. It was a post which would have particularly suited Collins's experience. He accepted it, and then John Burns, who was President of the Board, intervened with a nominee of his own. In order not to embarrass the Prime Minister Collins at once withdrew his acceptance. It was this unselfishness in Sir William's character, his consistent refusal to play for his own hand, as much as his independence of action and thought which prevented his admission to office. Of the latter characteristic, many examples could be given. If a bill sponsored by the Government with the principles of which Sir William was not in agreement, was under consideration he would inform the Whips that he was not prepared to vote for it, and on some occasions signified his intention of speaking against it in the ensuing debate. He was never a strict party man, and this did not make him popular with some sections of the Liberals, although none could help admiring his integrity.

Another explanation of Sir William's failure to attain high office, given by the writer of his obituary in *The British Medical Journal*, was that his qualities were suited for the Chair rather than for the Bench, even the Front Bench.

"He was a Chairman sent from heaven. He had all the qualities a Chairman ought to have—urbanity, firmness, grasp of detail, an eye to the main issue, the ability to come to the point and bring others there, and again and always urbanity. . . . He was

always being made Chairman of Select Committees dealing with such subjects as agricultural wages, the minimum wage for miners, accidents to railway servants, and always he justified the choice. With Collins in the Chair everybody was confident that the work would proceed to some useful conclusion."

It was consciousness of this special gift that led him to hope that some day he might be elected Speaker of the House of Commons, an office then occupied by Mr. James Lowther (afterwards Viscount Ullswater). Collins would have made an excellent Speaker for he had all the qualities desirable. After Mr. Asquith in 1908 had become Prime Minister it looked as if Collins might be placed on the high road to the Speakership. Mr. Emmott (afterwards Lord Emmott) the Chairman of Ways and Means, an appointment which carried with it the post of deputy Speaker, resigned and Asquith offered the appointment to Sir William, who accepted it. Once again an unkind Fate intervened. Mr. Emmott subsequently went to Asquith and said he desired to remain Chairman until the next General Election. Asquith explained that the appointment had already been accepted by Collins, and that Mr. Emmott could only have his way if Collins were agreeable. On hearing of this, Sir William withdrew in Mr. Emmott's favour, and thus closed another avenue to parliamentary distinction. He was, however, temporary Chairman of Committees in 1910, but lost his seat at the December General Election of that year, when the Liberals went to the country for a second time in one year, this time on the question of depriving the House of Lords of power over "Money Bills" and limiting its veto to two years.

Sir William re-entered the House of Commons as Liberal member for Derby, at a by-election in 1917, with, as he assured the electors, "my earnest desire loyally to support His Majesty's Government in their endeavour to attain the objects which we had in entering upon the War." He was firmly convinced that no durable peace was possible so long as the

Prussian military autocracy continued either undefeated or unrepudiated by the German people. On December 19th, 1917, in a debate in the House of Commons on the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, he emphasised these convictions in an eloquent speech, quoting the words of Grotius: "War is waged for the sake of peace." He followed this article in *War and Peace*, March, 1918, entitled "War Aims and Peace Programmes," pointing out that "the principles formulated by President Wilson, if pursued by the League of Nations co-operating against the Central Powers, furnish the very canons of international law and the foundations of justice, liberty and humanity."

Unfortunately, Sir William lost his seat in 1918 at Mr. Lloyd-George's "Coupon" general election, and thereafter relinquished parliamentary ambitions. He was to the end a staunch Liberal and rendered service to the Party as Hon. Secretary of the Political Committee of the Reform Club and in other ways.

Though Sir William's parliamentary career, for the various reasons stated, fell short of the high promise with which it began, he did much valuable public service in the House of Commons. In addition to serving on a number of parliamentary committees, he was successful in obtaining an ambulance service for London, a project which he had strenuously advocated since 1902. A Departmental Committee and the London County Council itself recommended that the Metropolitan Asylums Board should provide the service. Sir William, a member both of the Committee and of the Council opposed the suggestion, and when neither would accept his views, he introduced into Parliament a Bill to confer the powers on the London County Council. This was passed by the Commons and the Lords, and the County Council reluctantly accepted its new obligations. The Service which has been so great a boon to Londoners began in 1915. Sir William always reflected with satisfaction that the result had fully vindicated his energetic action.

In 1902 Dr. Collins was created a Knight, and in

1913 he became a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order.

## ROYAL COMMISSIONS—VACCINATION AND VIVISECTION

The Royal Commission on Vaccination was appointed by Queen Victoria in May, 1889, and finally reported in August, 1896. It was a great compliment to the young Dr. Collins to be appointed a member of the Commission. In 1935 he wrote an account of its work of which he was then the only survivor.

The Commission's terms of reference were as follows :

To inquire and report as to :

1. The effect of vaccination in reducing the prevalence of and mortality from smallpox.
2. What means other than vaccination can be used for diminishing the prevalence of smallpox, and how far such means could be relied on in place of vaccination.
3. The objections made to vaccination on the ground of injurious effects alleged to result therefrom; and the nature and extent of any injurious effects which do, in fact, so result.
4. Whether any means, and, if so, what means should be adopted for preventing, or lessening, the ill effects, if any, resulting from vaccination; and whether, and, if so, by what means, vaccination with animal vaccine should be further facilitated as a part of public vaccination.
5. Whether any alterations should be made in the arrangements and proceedings for securing the performance of vaccination, and in particular, in the provisions of the Vaccination Acts with respect to prosecutions for noncompliance with the law.

In drafting the report Lord Herschell, the Chairman, allotted certain sections to certain members : (1) the

scientific and historical part to Professor Michael Foster; (b) the statistical part to Sir James Paget. This part was later taken over by the Chairman; (c) the alleged injuries due to vaccination to Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson; (d) means other than vaccination to Dr. Collins. These drafts were circulated and criticised by the members. Collins by heredity and belief was an opponent of vaccination. He disputed the scientific conclusions in Professor Foster's draft, and at several meetings held in Collins's house the two men failed to agree. Collins to the end of his life believed that improvement in hygiene, sanitary environment and hospital isolation were responsible for the decline in the incidence and mortality of smallpox.

The majority Report was strongly in favour of vaccination and re-vaccination at intervals, advocated the use of calf lymph only, and that vaccination should be done at the homes of the children. Collins drafted an able minority report ("Statement of Dissent") of 64 pages which was signed by Mr. Allanson Picton and himself. In it he set forth his reasons for disagreement. "Other more effective and practicable (as well as less objectionable) modes of stamping out smallpox, or protecting communities from its introduction, are available, and he added in a final paragraph (No. 303):

"on the whole, then, while there is much in the report of our colleagues from which we dissent, and we have accordingly abstained with reluctance from adding our signatures to theirs, we are at one with them in holding that it is unwise to attempt to enforce vaccination on those who regard it as useless and dangerous. We, however, go further and agree with our colleagues, Mr. Whitbread and Mr. Bright, that it would be simpler and more logical to abolish compulsory vaccination altogether."

Although in those days an anti-vaccinationist was regarded as a crank by the medical profession, none who knew Collins could dispute the sincerity of his

beliefs. He often talked to me on the subject on which I never argued with him, and the occurrence of cases of vaccinal encephalitis reinforced his objection to compulsory vaccination. On February 15th, 1907, in the course of the debate on the address in the House of Commons, he delivered an eloquent speech on the administration of the Vaccination Acts in which he opposed compulsion as a surgeon, because he would rather have his advice recommended by a process of moral suasion than imposed by the co-operation of policemen, penalties and imprisonment; he opposed it as a Liberal, because he thought it unwise and unjust to force vaccination on those who regarded it as useless or dangerous. This speech evoked a striking tribute from his political opponent, Walter Long, who said: "The speech of the hon. gentleman opposite has been listened to with the greatest possible pleasure and interest by the House. It would be superfluous for me—perhaps almost impertinent—to say they all recognised not merely the high authority of the hon. gentleman when he spoke on this and many other questions, but also the great ability, dexterity and charm with which the hon. gentleman had put his case before his hearers."

Sir William lived long enough to know that the Ministry of Health were about to abolish compulsory vaccination, and intended to rely on moral suasion for the protection of the public. Thus the passage of time has justified his ethical standpoint, even if his scientific judgment went astray as regards the efficacy of Jenner's method.

Sir William Collins was also a member of the Royal Commission on Vivisection, appointed by King Edward VII on September 17th, 1906, "to enquire into and report upon the practice of subjecting live animals to experiments, whether by vivisection or otherwise; and also to enquire into the law relating to that practice, and its administration; and to report whether any, and if so what changes are desirable." As in the case of the Royal Commission on Vaccination, the preparation of provisional drafts for the report was allotted to different members. The section

dealing with the existing law was drafted by Mr. Mackenzie Chalmers of the Home Office ; the scientific part of the report was largely the joint work of Professor Gaskell and Sir William Collins ; Sir William also drafted the moral and ethical part of the report.

Sir William was not an anti-vivisectionist, but he was a humanitarian and a statesman, and he was not in complete agreement with the findings of the majority. The points of difference were not large. For administrative reasons he advocated the undivided responsibility of the Home Secretary as regards vivisection, and the abolition of certificates waiving restrictions in regard to painful experiments and the use of anaesthetics given by scientific authorities. He also considered an experimenter should be required to destroy an animal immediately it exhibits signs of severe pain, even if the object of the experiment has not been attained. A Reservation or Dissentient Memorandum was drawn up and signed by the Rt. Hon. Col. A. R. M. Lockwood (Lord Lambourne), Sir William J. Collins and Dr. George Wilson, all of whom signed the Commissioner's report subject to the reservations outlined above and expanded in the Memorandum. Sir William considered that valuable knowledge has resulted and may result from experiments on living animals. After weighing the moral and ethical considerations, his view was that such experiments, adequately safeguarded by law faithfully administered, were justifiable and should not be prohibited by legislation, but should always be performed under an anaesthetic.

### OTHER PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to serving on these two Royal Commissions, Sir William Collins did a vast amount of other important public work, which, as the *British Medical Journal* said, "almost defies chronicle." He was a member of the Council of the King's Hospital Fund, and in that capacity demanded and secured more generous pension rights for hospital officers

by the bodies employing them than had been originally intended. He was Chairman of a Special Committee of the Fund on Ambulance Cases from 1923-4. For nearly thirty years he was honorary Secretary to the League of Mercy (1899-1928); Chairman of a Select Committee on the hop industry (1908) Chairman of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Civil Servants (1917-18); a member of the City Churches Commission and of the Treasury Commission on University Colleges; Independent Chairman for Cumberland under the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, Chairman of the Sussex Agricultural Wages Committee (1920-39); Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Accidents to Railway Servants (1913-19); President of the Medico-Legal Society (1902-6); President of the Sanitary Inspectors Association (1922-27); and Chairman of the North-Western Polytechnic. In 1909 he received the Hon. Freedom of the 'Turners' Company, and in 1913 he was the recipient of the Order of Mercy. During the war in 1914-18 he was Commissioner for the Red Cross in France.

Sir William's abilities as a diplomatist were strikingly shown as Government plenipotentiary at three International Opium Conferences at the Hague in 1911-12, 1913 and 1914. Here he did extraordinarily good work on the international control of opium, for which he received the special thanks of the British Government. He contributed articles on "The Opium Question" to the *Contemporary Review*, gave an address in 1938 on the history of the past thirty years of the International Control of Opium to the National Association of Women Pharmacists, and on this subject and the control of narcotic drugs generally, served the *British Medical Journal* for many years as an occasional contributor. As regards the use of alcohol, he believed in the "potency for good of reduced facilities for tippling" and advocated restriction and not prohibition. He wrote the *Ethics and Law of Drug and Alcohol Addiction* (1916), which was a balanced survey.

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT NURSING IN LONDON

Sir William Collins's work for District Nursing in London was noteworthy and important. As the friend of Florence Nightingale and Sir William Morris, founder of the Charity Organisation Society, he early acquired an interest in the nursing of the sick poor; and when the Central Council for District Nursing in London was formed in 1914 to co-ordinate the work of the various bodies concerned with district nursing in the metropolis, Sir William was elected its Chairman. With the splendid co-operation of Sir Arthur Downes, M.D., Miss Zoë L. Puxley and others, Sir William's skilful handling of the eager, but sometimes conflicting interests, brought order and system to the work of the Council with consequent benefit to the sick and the devoted nurses engaged in this work. He was Chairman for more than thirty years. In February, 1944, members of the Council and friends met to honour him at a public gathering. Sir Stanley Woodwark, who presided, voiced the opinion of all present that the high reputation of the Council was largely due to Sir William's wise guidance, and much of the development of district nursing in London to his skilful advocacy in negotiation with public bodies. On Collins's retirement soon afterwards the position of President was specially created for him. This is an instance of how men and women who worked with him not only admired his powers of direction and organisation, but cherished a real affection for the man himself.

### THE CHADWICK TRUST

Sir William Collins was an admirer of Edwin Chadwick, and in 1924 delivered a lecture at University College London on "The Life and Doctrine of Sir Edwin Chadwick." This lecture in fact contains a balanced account of Chadwick's life and his influence on public health. Sir William believed to a large extent with Chadwick that a sanitary environment, cleanliness and fresh air would abolish most

diseases. Collins's friendship with Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, the friend and biographer of Chadwick, strengthened him in this belief. He did not go so far as Richardson who, bred up in a creed of disease outworn, doubted Pasteur's work and the triumphs of bacteriology, but he considered that too much attention was paid to the seed and too little to the soil. He recalled with pleasure a conversation he had with Virchow at one of Sir John Lubbock's delightful scientific breakfasts, and remarked upon the fact that Virchow had lectured for an hour, on the previous day, on pathology without mentioning the word bacillus. "Yes," said the grand old man, "he is taking a smaller place." The part played by the tissues of the body in disease still needs further investigation.

Sir William's brochure *Man and the Microbe* contains five Annual Presidential Addresses, which he delivered to the Sanitary Inspectors Association from 1922 to 1926. Each one of them emphasises the importance and value of Chadwick's doctrines.

The Chadwick Trust was founded in 1895 to administer the funds bequeathed by Sir Edwin Chadwick "for the promotion of Sanitary Science in the widest possible sense." The original trustees included Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson as Chairman of the Trust, Sir Douglas Galton, Sir James Crichton-Browne and Mr. Osbert Chadwick, son of the founder. In 1924 the Scheme was amended. Sir William Collins became Chairman and held office up to his death. Under Sir William's direction, and with the enthusiastic co-operation of Sir James Crichton-Browne, the repute of the Chadwick Trust rapidly increased. In addition to assisting Chadwick Professorships at University College, London, providing scholarships, medals and prizes in sanitary science, a new departure was made in 1913 in the institution of courses of public Chadwick lectures in London and the provinces, by competent lecturers on almost every aspect of hygiene. These lectures are greatly appreciated and have added considerably to knowledge. Sir William, as Chairman of the Trust, was almost invariably

present at the lectures and said a few words of criticism and appreciation afterwards, which reflected his wonderful store of knowledge, and often expressed the lecturer's intention better than he had been able to do in an hour's discourse. Not infrequently Sir James Crichton-Browne took the Chair at the lectures, and then the audience was treated to a speech of remarkable eloquence, for Sir James was a great orator. Of late years in the organisation of these lectures Sir William was greatly helped by the work of Mr. Percy Edwards, Clerk to the Trustees and Lecture Secretary, who had been closely associated with him at the London County Council.

### STUDIES IN GENERAL LITERATURE

In the course of this lecture reference has been made to a number of Sir William's writings. Versatile in his interests, his publications ranged over a wide field. He never wrote a lengthy work but his biographical studies, essays, lectures and addresses were models of clarity and erudition, and written in perfect English. He was a lover of poetry and apt quotations from Cowper, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Longfellow, Lowell and other poets adorn his writings. Three of his great interests were philosophy, law reform and sociology.

Mention has already been made of his short biographies of Chadwick and Benjamin Ward Richardson. In 1889 he published his short account of the *Life and Philosophy of Spinoza: the God-Intoxicated Man*. He shows how Spinoza developed the principles of Descartes, and after describing the philosopher's pantheism concludes that "Positivism may be triumphant for a while, but the spirit of Spinoza's doctrine, divested of constricting form, will rise with wings of the morning and bring repose and comfort to minds wearied with much thinking."

In 1888 Collins, as a member of the Huguenot family of Garnault, joined the Huguenot Society of which he was President in 1927. In 1908 he published his able life of *Sir Samuel Romilly*, the great law-

reformer, which originally appeared in the Transactions of the Society. In 1924 he followed this up with *Some Notes on Sir Samuel Romilly and Etienne Dumont*; his presidential address dealt with his predecessors in the Chair; in 1933 he contributed a paper on *The Garnault Group of Families*; and finally in 1942 wrote of Grotius in a paper entitled, *Hugo de Groot—Huguenot and International Jurist*, which gives a succinct and admirable account of this eminent jurist.

The war of 1914-18 moved Sir William strongly, and in 1914 he wrote for *Scientia* an article on *The Aetiology of the European Conflagration*; in 1918, to the same journal, he contributed a sequel entitled *The Semeiology of the World War*, leading up, as he said, "to some anticipatory reflections upon the lines which may lead to that 'Healing of the Nations,' which belligerents and neutrals alike are yearning for, in order that the tree of Life, both National and International may flourish in perennial inflorescence." He was fated, nevertheless, to witness the Second World War in which he took his share of public service, including fire-watching and fighting incendiary bombs.

Collins's address to the Abernethian Society in 1905 on *Physic and Metaphysic* pleaded for a broad and philosophic outlook on the problems of disease instead of a scientific materialism. In his philosophical writings he was much influenced by Berkeley, Spinoza and Herbert Spencer, although in reality he was adopting the outlook of the Greek philosophers on natural phenomena.

Another lecture delivered in 1914, *The Martyrdom of Medicine* dealt with medical pioneers, the victims of persecution and intolerance like Semmelweis, Michael Servetus and Dr. John Elliotson. In choosing this subject, possibly Sir William felt that he himself, on account of his views on vaccination and bacteriology, was to some extent a medical martyr in the cause of truth. If so his martyrdom was of slight degree, for those who differed from him almost invariably admired and respected him for the courage with which he expressed his opinions.

Sir William wrote his own autobiography which at present is unpublished. All his published writings are interesting to read and make one regret that his many avocations in life did not allow more leisure for literary work.

### LAST DAYS

Sir William Collins was one of those men on whom the passage of the years sat lightly. He was of medium height, handsome in his younger days and his hair remained black at eighty years of age. He was sturdily built, broad-shouldered, his figure unbowed, and dignified in mien and speech. His cleanshaven face was one of strength, the head massive, the chin strong, the lips firm-set. Most striking was the expression of his eyes. Not only did they sparkle with intelligence, but they possessed a penetrating quality which weighed and summed up the characters of those he addressed. As the Rev. Ruthven Forbes has written : " Rock-like he was ; but behind his strength lay a sweetness and child-like simplicity and a sparkling humour. His girdle was a philosophic faith and the laughter of the unclouded years."

Lady Collins died in 1936 and thereafter much of Sir William's zest and pleasure in life departed from him. He was now a lonely man. But with his characteristic stoicism he continued to busy himself in his innumerable interests in which the Chadwick Trust and the London District Nursing Council ranked very dear to him.

The Second World War saddened him, for he saw many of the aspirations and ideals towards international peace, which he had so strongly advocated, melted in the crucible of conflict. But he lived to see the end of the war and to know that German aggression had been overcome for the second time. My last meeting with him was at the Reform Club in 1946 when we talked of this and many other subjects. He was to have taken the Chair that year at a Chadwick Lecture of mine and sent me a courteous message regretting his inability to do so. Sir William was strong

physically as well as mentally, and it was not until 1946 that his health began to fail. He bore the effects of a painful illness with resignation and patience, knowing that only one outcome was possible. But his superb mental faculties remained unimpaired, and up to nearly the end he wrote and read and retained his interest in affairs. He died on December 12th, 1946, at the ripe age of 87 years in the house in which he had been born. The crowded congregation which attended his Memorial Service at Crown Court Church, London, testified to the admiration and affection with which he was regarded.

#### AN APPRECIATION

With a tinge of regret, the *British Medical Journal* said of Sir William Collins's life : " The promise was so abundant, yet somehow the harvest, while plentiful in diverse achievement, did not quite fulfil the expectations of those who had watched the splendid ripening of his gifts."

The fairy godmothers at his cradle endowed Collins with exceptional gifts, a brilliant intellect, eloquence, charm of manner, the pen of a ready writer, the art of managing men and affairs, high integrity, industry and a generous and kindly disposition. With such splendid qualities, what might he not have achieved? Why with all these dazzling attributes did he not attain a supreme position in medicine or politics? The answer, I think, is that he was an individualist, that he lived up to his beliefs and refused again and again to compromise on subjects on which he felt strongly, when worldly wisdom would have counselled recantation, or at all events silence. This disdain for expediency at the expense of principle, as we have seen, prevented his election to the honorary staff of his hospital, in spite of a brilliant academic record. Later in life, in the domain of politics, his zeal for truth, his unselfishness and his refusal to obey blindly the behest of the party whips barred him from high office in the Liberal Government, to which his great talents and service entitled

him. He met the rebuffs as well as the gifts of Fortune with philosophic calm; and, while many honours came to him, he never sought self-distinction.

Nevertheless, this record of his life shows that if his career was not a complete success, in the eyes of the world, yet it was far from being a failure. His fine brain and statesmanlike qualities served many good causes without a trace of self-interest and he served them all devotedly. His was in truth :

“ A life in civic action warm,  
A soul on highest mission sent,  
A potent voice of Parliament,  
A pillar steadfast in the storm.”

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(NOTE: Mr. Percy J. Edwards possesses a number of Sir William Collins's published works, which he kindly lent me to read. I am, therefore, indebted to him for help in the preparation of this bibliography and for much information.—A.S.M.)